

**Testimony of Deborah Walsh of East Lyme
in support of HB 6748 AAC Nonpartisan Membership on Boards Of Education**

**GAE Committee Public Hearing
Friday, February 13, 2015
Room 2A**

Chairman Jutila, Chairman Cassano, Members of the GAE Committee, for the record my name is Deborah Walsh of East Lyme.

I am here to offer testimony in support of HB 6748 AAC Nonpartisan Membership on Boards Of Education. I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit this written testimony here today.

I strongly support HB 6748. I have been active in the education and parent-family engagement communities for years, and I've been dismayed at the fact that Connecticut is one of the few states that does not allow non-partisan boards of Education. My personal experience in East Lyme is that party affiliation sometimes prevents good candidates from running or pressures board members to tow the party line rather than do what they feel is in the best interest of students and schools. Sometimes candidates win solely on party-line votes. None of this is ideal.

Connecticut's children, family and schools deserve better. HB 6748 AAC does not require funding nor is it a mandate. It simply gives towns the option to allow nonpartisan boards.

I hope you will support this bill and move the legislation forward. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Walsh
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